

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 36 are currently pending in this application. Claims 23-36 have been withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments set forth in this response.

Double-Patenting Rejection

Finally, the Examiner also rejected claims 1 to 22 on nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent Application No. 10/523,465. Applicant acknowledges the rejection and files herewith a terminal disclaimer obviating this rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103 Over Horton et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 13, 17 to 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Horton et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0162605) either alone, or in combination with Scheicher (U.S.P.N. 4,278,630) or Oshida (U.S.P.N. 6,066,176). Applicant has amended independent claim 1, upon which claims 2 to 22 each rely, to include the limitations from claims 14 to 16, which Examiner indicated would be in condition for allowance if placed into independent form, thereby obviating this rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and response, it is believed that the application is in condition for further examination. If any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, Applicant would appreciate if the Examiner would advise the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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